

1. (Amended) An irrigation ablation probe comprising:

a generally rigid probe body having proximal and distal ends and comprising an ablation electrode at its distal end, wherein the ablation electrode defines an inner cavity, the ablation electrode having at least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass from the inner cavity to the outside of the ablation electrode; and

means for introducing fluid into the inner cavity [an infusion tube having proximal and distal ends and extending through the probe body for introducing fluid into the ablation electrode].

4. (Amended) An irrigation ablation probe according to claim [1] 2, wherein the means for introducing fluid comprises an [distal end of the] infusion tube [is] attached to the proximal end of the ablation electrode.

6. (Amended) An irrigation ablation probe comprising:

a generally rigid probe body having proximal and distal ends and comprising an ablation electrode at its distal end, the ablation electrode having at least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass to the outside of the ablation electrode;

a handle mounted to the proximal end of the probe body; and

an infusion tube having proximal and distal ends and extending through the probe body introducing fluid into the ablation electrode.

24. (Amended) An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 6, wherein the generally rigid probe body comprises:

tubing having proximal and distal ends and at least one lumen extending therethrough, wherein the ablation electrode is mounted at the distal end of the tubing;

[a tip electrode mounted at the distal end of the tubing, the tip electrode having at least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass;

means for introducing fluid through the at least one irrigation opening of the tip electrode;] and

a stiffening wire extending through one of the at least one lumens of the tubing.

25. (Amended) An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 24, wherein the [introducing means comprises an infusion tube having proximal and distal ends that] infusion tube extends through one of the at least one lumens of the tubing, and wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid communication with the at least one irrigation opening in the [tip] ablation electrode.

26. (Amended) An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 6, wherein the generally rigid probe body comprises:

tubing having proximal and distal ends and at least one lumen extending therethrough; wherein the ablation electrode is mounted at the distal end of the tubing;

[a tip electrode mounted at the distal end of the tubing, the tip electrode having at least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass;

an] wherein the infusion tube [having proximal and distal ends that] extends through one of the at least one lumens of the tubing, and wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid communication with the at least one irrigation opening in the [tip] ablation electrode; and

a stiffening wire extending through one of the at least one lumens of the tubing.

30. (Amended) An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 6, wherein the generally rigid probe body comprises:

tubing having proximal and distal ends and first and second lumens extending therethrough; wherein the ablation electrode is mounted at the distal end of the tubing;

[a tip electrode mounted at the distal end of the tubing, the tip electrode having at least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass;

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7 an] wherein the infusion tube [having proximal and distal ends that] extends through
8 the first lumen of the tubing, and wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid
9 communication with the at least one irrigation opening in the [tip] ablation electrode; and
10 a stiffening wire having proximal and distal ends that extends through the second
11 lumen of the tubing.

Claim 33, line 2, replace "tip", with--ablation--.

Claim 35, line 1, replace "tip", with--ablation--.

Claim 36, line 2, replace "tip", with--ablation--.

Please add new claims 42 to 47 as follows:

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1 42. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 1, wherein the means for
2 introducing fluid into the inner cavity comprises an infusion tube having proximal and distal
3 ends and extending through the probe body. --

1 -- 43. An irrigation probe according to claim 42, wherein the infusion tube and the
2 ablation electrode together comprise a single generally hollow body. --

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1 -- 44. An irrigation probe according to claim 6, wherein the infusion tube and the
2 ablation electrode together comprise a single generally hollow body. --

1 -- 45. A method for treating atrial fibrillation in a patient comprising:
2 opening the heart of the patient; and
3 ablating at least one linear lesion in the heart tissue using an irrigation probe as
4 recited in claim 6. --